

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE
MUNICIPAL GOLF COMMISSION MINUTES**

MAY 25, 2005

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Municipal Golf Commission was called to order by Chairman Skip Rowland, at 3:33 p.m. in the classroom at the Long Beach Junior Golf Academy Building, 6730 E. Carson Street, Long Beach, California. Chairman Skip Rowland took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

<u>Present:</u>	Skip Rowland, Chairman	
	Phil Barlow, Vice-Chairman	Betty Hatcher
	Gail Berns	Bill Townsend
	John McCann	Robin Bellamy
	Tonny Christensen	Bob Peeters
	Becky Turley	Ray McElhenney
	Len Kennett	Linda Cook

Excused: None

Staff: Thomas Shippey, Manager of Maintenance Operations
Terry Lortz, Superintendent of Golf Operations
Emy Arteaga, Golf Operations Support
Dave Wodynski, Budget Office
Lou Piana, Budget Office

American Golf: Jay Carballo, Regional Director of American Golf
Lisa Georgeson, Junior Golf Coordinator
Bob Chaffee, Long Beach Golf Festival Coordinator

Audience: Al Theriault
Don Wood

2. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- Chairman Rowland welcomed and asked all guests to please sign in and introduce themselves.

- Chairman Rowland welcomed and introduced Dave Wodynski from the City Budget Office who gave an overview of the 2005-2006 budget and an update on the three-year financial plan. Mr. Wodynski stated that the City Manager's main objectives are to create a safe and clean city, create fiscal stability, and build public trust in the City Council and staff through open communication. This began two years ago with the community meetings on the three-year budget plan. A budget summary, a listing of upcoming meetings, and a comment card were distributed and reviewed. All comments received from the public are being placed in a database, of which City Council is receiving copies.
- Commissioners are encouraged to attend the budget citywide summit on Saturday, July 9, 2005 at the Grand from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Chairman Rowland stated that it is important to attend these budget summits. He then thanked Mr. Wodynski for his informative presentation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 27, 2005

- The minutes of the April 27, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved.

It was moved by Commissioner Christensen and seconded by Commissioner Cook that the Municipal Golf Commission approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. GOLF SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Rounds of golf for April were down by 5,369 (-13.8%) over the total course rounds for April. Total rounds of golf were down by 30,699 (-22.3%) for the year compared to this time last year. **(Skylinks was removed from the comparison because of renovation closure).**
- Mr. Lortz asked the commissioners if they had any questions or comments on the rounds/financial report for the month of April.
- Mr. Lortz reviewed the highlights of the Monthly Facilities Report and asked the commissioners if they had any questions on any of the reports.
- Commissioner Peeters inquired as to how many days it actually rained and caused the rounds to go down. Mr. Carballo informed him it was three days of total closure.
- CIP Golf Fund - Current balance approximately = \$28,199
- CIP Surcharge Total = \$75,742

5. **AMERICAN GOLF REPORT**

- Junior Golf 1% Fund available balance March 30, 2005 = \$80,325.35
- Little Linksters Fund available balance March 30, 2005 = \$73,653.07
- Mr. Bob Chaffee gave a presentation on the Long Beach Golf Festival events taking place. He also thanked all commissioners who have participated as volunteers in the past and hopes they will continue to participate this year.
- Mr. Chaffee commented that he has seen a decline in the women's championship from the local women compared to the current non-resident participants. Commissioner Bellamy stated that price has a lot to do with it. Mr. Chaffee requested suggestions on ways to make the tournament more prestigious.
- Ms. Lisa Georgeson provided an update on the various junior golf programs in our City.
 - The Long Beach Junior Golf Association currently has 385 registered members.
 - D-Day Tournament is scheduled for June 11th at Heartwell Golf Course. This tournament is the annual shotgun fundraising event for the Long Beach Junior Golf Association. If clubs plan on entering a foursome, contact Lisa Georgeson at (562) 570-1272.
 - The Little Linksters Program has been scheduled for the last two weeks of July which would be July 18 – 22nd and July 25 – 29th. Program applications are being accepted and currently the program is approximately 50% full.
 - Golf clinic for special education students of the Long Beach Unified School District was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at Skylinks Golf Course. All of the students, teachers, and student aides had a great time. Ms. Georgeson thanked the staff at Skylinks Golf Course for their assistance. A special thanks to golf professionals Dennis Wright, Phil Kessler, Skeeter Wright, Bob Chaffee and Kathy Eaton from the Long Beach Golf Festival, Pete Ridge from Heartwell Golf Course, Brett Lederer and Nick Badel from the Long Beach State Golf Team. Also Steve Turley from Los Angeles County Junior Golf Program and Commissioners Bellamy and Hatcher.

6. **COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS**

A. Capital Improvement Projects – Bill Townsend

- Commissioners have a draft CIP list to review and share with their clubs. A final list will be compiled with all the necessary changes. All commissioners are to send in their comments to Terry Lortz.
- Chairman Rowland once again inquired about getting an accurate financial report for CIP. Mr. Shippey informed the commission that due to the budget crisis right now all the budget analysts and financial managers are still devoting their time and resources to building the budget for next year.

B. Fees and Charges – Bob Peeters

- The committee met at 2:30 p.m. on May 25, 2005 and are working on draft procedures for fees and charges policy.

C. Hall of Fame – Len Kennett

- The committee met at 2:30 p.m. on May 25, 2005.
- Commissioner Bellamy brought in a sample of a free-hand drawing; a portrait of Tiger Woods for the commission to view and decide if this is what they want. The lady that did this free-hand drawing is a member of the women's club at Recreation Park 18 Golf Course. Commissioner Bellamy stated that she would probably charge less than any other vendor, but she will need to check to find out what the actual cost would be for each portrait.
- The committee selected two nominees to be considered for induction to the Hall of Fame:
 - Gordon Olson has been on the Board of Directors of the Recreation Park Men's Golf Club since 1970, serving 16 terms as president, and anyone associated with the club will confirm that he is the backbone of their day-to-day operations. He also served eight years on the Long Beach Municipal Golf Commission (1988-1994) including two as chairman (1991-92). As with anyone who has been around a long time, Mr. Olson has his detractors, but the Hall of Fame Committee truly feels that Mr. Olson has "left his mark on golf in Long Beach".

It was moved by Commissioner Berns and seconded by Commissioner Townsend that the Municipal Golf Commission approve the inductee recommendation. The nomination carried unanimously.

- Pearl Sinn-Bonanni grew up in Bellflower, but played often in Long Beach golf events, and currently is a member of the Virginia Country Club. Ms. Sinn-Bonanni's junior, amateur and professional record are extraordinary. Her greatest achievement is likely to have been winning the U. S. Women's Amateur and U. S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championships in the same year, joining Bobby Jones as the only two people to win two USGA Championships in the same calendar year. Ms. Sinn-Bonanni won another USWAPL Championship and she won the 1998 State Farm Rail Classic on the LPGA Tour where she has also done some television commentary. The committee discussed Ms. Sinn-Bonanni's residence at length, but ultimately felt that she has sufficient ties to the Long Beach golf scene to be a worthy inductee.

It was moved by Vice-Chairman Barlow and seconded by Commissioner Cook that the Municipal Golf Commission approve the inductee recommendation. The nomination carried unanimously.

- The commissioners were reminded that Mr. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, and Recreation & Marine will make the final approval of the inductees.
- Commissioner Kennett asked the commissioners to attend the Long Beach Open on July 24, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. to support the Hall of Fame award recipients.

D. Policies and Procedures– Tonny Christensen

- The committee met on Thursday, May 19, 2005 to review the request from the Recreation Park 9 Men's Club to reinstate the four Sunday away tournaments. One each at the three 18 holes golf courses and the fourth being their annual November breakfast meeting on a Sunday. In attendance were the following commissioners: Philip Barlow, Linda Cook, Bob Peeters, John McCann, Tonny Christensen (excused on vacation in Europe), and Terry Lortz attended, representing City staff.
- The vote to reinstate the four additional tournaments as requested was three-stated No and one Yes, request was denied.
- The committee voted to recommend that the operations manual remain as it is currently written and add the identified annual tournament for the November breakfast meeting at El Dorado Golf Course to page 48 of the Golf Operations Manual and its subsequent changes. The attendees from Recreation Park 9 Men's Club agreed to this compromise.
- The committee recommended this change to the Municipal Golf Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Berns and seconded by Commissioner McCann that the Municipal Golf Commission not reinstate the four Sunday away tournaments. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Tournaments – Robin Bellamy

- No committee report.

F. Junior Golf Advisory – Linda Cook

- No committee report.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- GPS Update: The City Manager approved the fee adjustment on Friday, May 20, 2005 our department then authorized American Golf to move forward with contracting with Pro Shot to have their GPS system installed on all of the carts at Skylinks Golf Course. Appropriate notice of a \$1 per golfer fee increase at Skylinks will be properly posted immediately and the new fee would become effective as soon as the GPS equipment installation is completed and tested to be operationally functional.
- Calling Course for Tee Times: Mr. Peeters stated it's a violation of the policies in the Golf Operations Manual which states you can't call in to a course to make a reservation before 8:00 a.m. You have to go in person to the course to make a tee time.
- Food Concessions-Staffing Levels and Hours of Operation: Mr. Carballo stated that the general managers are making sure the restaurant is open the approved hours and they have enough staff there to provide quality service. Recreation Park 18 is open from 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the bar is open until 8:00 p.m.
- Mr. Shippey commented that some of the golf course restaurants are not doing as great as El Dorado Golf Course due to patron traffic and location. El Dorado Golf Course happens to be within walking distance from the residential community as compared to Skylinks. It's not fair for some of the commissioners to state American Golf is not doing a good job. It has been a great partnership with American Golf and the City benefiting both parties.
- Commissioner McCann stated he agrees with Mr. Shippey's comments but the level of service could still improve.

- Mr. Shippey stated that American Golf's focus is on running the golf courses not food concessions but they do so for their customers.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Golf Operations Recommendations from Mr. Don Wood: Mr. Wood's stated that there is so much play on weekends and the courses are heavily impacted that it would be great if there was a policy on mandatory dress code, for example collared shirts. Another thing to consider doing is rotational fairways closures at the courses to allow some rest for the grass to recover and be rejuvenated. Since the high school golf teams are on the course each week, they could assist with ball mark repairs on the greens. Lastly Mr. Woods commented that he was very pleased with all the efforts the Golf Commission puts in for the benefit of the golfers.
- Mr. Shippey asked Chairman Rowland to consider Mr. Wood's suggestions for further discussion.
- Chairman Rowland asked for a motion to refer Mr. Woods's comments and suggestions to the Policies and Procedures committee for further discussion and clarification.

It was moved by Commissioner Turley and seconded by Commissioner McCann that the Municipal Golf Commission refer Mr. Woods comments and suggestions to the Policies and Procedures Committee for further review. The motion carried unanimously.

- Memorial Plaque Request from Recreation Park 9 Men's Club: Commissioner McCann is seeking recommendation to approve the installation of a boulder with an attached bronze memorial plaque, honoring Troy Bradshaw.
- Chairman Rowland asked for a motion to refer Commissioner McCann's request to the Policies and Procedures committee to revisit current policy on golf course dedications and report back to the commission at the June 15, 2005 meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Bellamy and seconded by Commissioner Turley that the Municipal Golf Commission refer Commissioner McCann's request to the Policies and Procedures Committee to revisit current policy on golf course dedications. The motion carried unanimously.

9. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

- Mr. Carballo asked the commission for their input and recommendations on how they can better serve the golf patrons of the City of Long Beach. Mr. Carballo stated that he is always trying to do the best he can but it seems to not be working. He asked the commissioners for recommendations on what AGC could possibly do to improve the level of service the commissioners would like to see. Mr. Christensen commented he would stop by Mr. Carballo's office and provide some input.

B. STAFF

- None

C. COMMISSIONERS

- Chairman Rowland asked if the maintenance standards have been finalized? Mr. Shippey stated American Golf has submitted their recommendation to us and it will be reviewed and submitted back to American Golf. The maintenance standards will be part of the amended lease agreement.
- Commissioner Berns thanked Mr. Carballo for the new patio furniture at Heartwell Golf Course. She also wanted to thank Howard the greenskeeper at Heartwell for doing a great job.
- Commissioner Cook commented that it would be nice to get furniture at El Dorado Golf Course instead of the plastic furniture the course has.
- Commissioner Bellamy stated that the fairways at Skylinks were being done today. Why can't the fairways be done during off peak hours instead of during prime time? Posting ahead of time when maintenance like this happens would be greatly appreciated.
- Commissioner Bellamy asked if overseeding has been a consideration at Skylinks Golf Course. Mr. Carballo commented that it is not being considered for now.
- Commissioner Christensen commented that he thinks the City isn't maximizing the use of City owned restaurants.
- Commissioner McCann stated that he thinks there are better marketing ways that American Golf can use to run the concessions.
- Vice-Chairman Barlow presented a check for \$400 dollars to the Junior Golf Program as part of their contribution from their Quad Tournament.

10. NEXT MEETING

**June 15, 2005 at 3:30 p.m.
Heartwell Junior Golf Building
6730 E. Carson Street
Long Beach, CA 90808**

11. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emy Arteaga
Golf Operations Support

c: Municipal Golf Commission
Reginald I. Harrison, Deputy City Manager
Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas A. Shippey, Manager of Maintenance Operations
Terry L. Lortz, Superintendent of Golf Operations
Jay Carballo, Regional Director of American Golf Corporation
Lisa Georgeson, Director of Junior Golf Programs